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The Importance of Babur's Conquest in Indian History

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ABSTRACT

Babur, the founder of Mughal Empire was born in A.D. 1483. The meaning of the word Babur is "The Lion" or 'Brave Man'. Babur was of a mixed tradition, of Timur's family through fathers and Chengiskhan's family related to the Turks and Afghanis through mother's side. Nasir-ud-Din Muhammad is his real name. His father Umar Shaik Mirsa was the ruler of a small country Fergana. Babur's birth place was "Aanthijan" the capital of Fergana. In child hood itself he has learned languages like Turkish, Persia etc. from his guru and learned details connected with administration from his mother's mother. His guru Sheik Majeed and grandmother Doulat Begum exerted too much influence on him. In 1494 when his father expired, Babur who was merely eleven years old has to take over the administration. In 1496 though he tried to conquer the capital of Samarkand he could not achieve, again next year he has conquered Samarkand. Sitting on the throne of Timur at least for one day was his life's desire. After a short while in the circumstances of Babur being bed ridden due to illness, revolt broke out in Fergana and it became in the hands of the enemies. Babur who was not ready to forsake Samarkand or Fergana, along with the army went to Fergana. But not able to retake Fergana, defeated when he reached Samarkand he lost that place also. Like this he became a king without kingdom. One by one his followers left him. Though after the success- failure days in 1504 he conquered Kabul and started living there; he has not left his desire to conquer Samarkand. For this purpose he has entered in to an agreement with Shah Ismail Saha of Persia and tried but he could not succeed. In this period in 1508 his son Humayun was born. Babur who lost so much, at the end he has to abandon the idea of conquering Samarkand. Later his attention turned towards India.

KEY WORDS - First Panipat War, The Result Of Panipat War, Khwana War Chanderi War, Gogra War

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INTRODUCTION:

Before defeating Ibrahim Lodhi in Panipat war and putting foundation for Mughal Empire, many times Babur made attack on India. In 1504 he has attacked Kohath and returned with plenty of robbed wealth. Again in 1507 though he came with the army to Jalalabadh, since the climate was not favorable, he had to return. In 1519 he has attacked and conquered Bijapur. In 1520 he has attacked and conquered Seyadapur and massacred the people. In 1524 Doulat Khan has invited Babur to attack Delhi. But later Doulat Khan has made breach of promises. The angered Babur defeated Doulat Khan and handed over the administration of Punjab to the governors. When Babur went back, Doulat Khan seized back Punjab. Hearing the news, in 1525 Babur defeated Doulat Khan and conquered Punjab. Later he started his triumphant march to Delhi.

AREA OF STUDY :

The present study highlighted the important factor that encouraged Babur to attack India was his ambition which could not be controlled. Making Kabul as the centre, he has established a small kingdom in Afghanistan. Though Babur has increased his military strength he has not succeeded in recapturing his mother country. In these circumstances only he has diverted his attention to the eastern border of his kingdom.

OBJECTIVES

1. To trace the important factor that encouraged Babur to attack India.
2. To highlight the importance of First Panipat War, Gogra war, Khwana war and Chanderi War

METHODOLOGY

- Basically Historical Methodology is adopted for this work
- Methodology adopted in the study is mainly descriptive cum analytical.

Babur considered that with the army divisions he has prepared in the modern way he can reap better achievement. Over and above the natural Instinct challenged him for attacks. He believed that, not having any political integration or a centralized ruling condition, the Indian political climate will help him to establish his rule without very strong confrontation. His belief was not wrong. For Babur there was no need to confront very powerful enemies in India was the proof for this. The immeasurable wealth in India also tempted Babur. He believed that using India's wealth he can improve the army more and using such improved army he can conduct more military attacks on the countries. Over and above this India is the country lying very near to Kabul. It is natural that any desiring king will have an eye on the neighboring country. Since Delhi Sultan Ibrahim Lodi was a worthless ruler, Doulat Khan of Punjab defying Lodi, declared freedom for Punjab. Not only has that

he invited Babur to attack Delhi. Ibrahim Lodi's enemy Rana Samgaraha Sinha also agreed to help Babur. Some Historians were of the opinion that above all, being a religious fanatic, Babur was having an aim to convert India's Idol worshipping non – believers to Islam religion and propagate it.

The war took place in A.D. 1526 between Babur and Ibrahim Lodi, the Delhi Sultan, at Panipat is known in India History as first Panipat war. This war is one of the destiny decisive wars. Through this war laid the foundation for more than three century's Mughal Emperor's rule in India. Since Delhi's sultan Ibrahim Lodi was worthless, defying him many regional rulers declared independence so the independent Punjab ruler Doulat Khan invited Babur to attack Delhi to teach Lodi a lesson by any means. On 21st April 1526 Babur encountered Ibrahim Lodi. In the battle field Ibrahim Lodi was killed. Babur who entered the palace victoriously got invaluable wealth. In Indian History the first Panipat war made far reaching results. With this the Afghan Muslim's rule came to an end and dawned another dynasty in India. After Panipat victory Babur decided to continue in India and attack and conquer other regions. With this the desire of the pathans to rule India became fruitless. Mughals have given a new culture and civilization to India.

Rana Sangha of Rajaputtana was another ruler who made an agreement with Babur to move the army against Ibrahim Lodi, the sultan of Delhi. Rana sangha believed that just like other foreign attackers after attack Babur will also return back. If it was like this, taking advantage of the political indecisiveness taking shape, he has refrained from giving help to him. Forming an alliance with Rajputs he has faced Babur. On 17th March 1527 in the battle field of Khwana Babur defeated the Rajputs. Rana sangha who ran away from the battle field died after two years. Perhaps Khwana war must have historical importance than Panipat war. Because following the war of Delhi Empire the united efforts made by the Rajputs to fill the political vacuum in north India failed pathetically. This caused the confirmation of Babur's domination in Indian soil. He has changed his centre of activity from Kabul to Delhi.

Though the Rajputs faced defeat in the war at Khwana, they were not desperate. In 1528 in the leadership of Medhini Rai of Chanderi they have united and prepared to confront Babur. But all the forts of Delhi and Agra region belonged to Rajputs came under attack. With the seizure of Chanderi fort by Babur's army written the end of Rajputs resistance .There was no hindrance for Babur to go forward with military activities after the capture of Chanderi Fort. Moving to the eastern region his army at Gogra defeated the Afghan lords and brought Bihar and Bengal regions under Mughal's rule. With this the empire of Babur spread form oks River in the middle Asia at the west, up to Bengal in the east, form Himalaya in the North to Gwalior in the south. Though he was in power only for four years in India he could achieve surpassing victory.

Babur is having a high position among the rulers of middle–age history. Babur is the foremost one who came up step by step due to the habit of self dependence and mental power. At the age of Feitan facing many difficulties entered the battle field, disappeared under the period’s curtain after establishing a very wide empire and a new dynasty. The famous historian Lanepeople opened that Babur was the owner of an astonishing personality in the history of middle- age India. We can analyze the superior quality of Babur who was shown in the level of an unvanquished soldier, discrete diplomat and a capable military chief.

As a person Babur was the owner of an attractive and majestic personality. He was a very brave and valiant person. He was having the body strength to carry two people in his hands and escalate the Agra fort wall. Bravery and self dependency as investment, he loved his family very much. It is said that for his son Humayun, Babur has sacrificed his own life. Always with kindness and generosity only he behaved with his relatives and friends. Not only was that he a complete devotee also. Hunting and swimming was his passionate entertainment. When he got into the middle of ill- luck, without being desperate he has worked with determination. Lane people have expressed the opinion that he was one of the attractive personalities in Asia’s History itself.

CONCLUSION

Historians have assessed Babur as one among the highly positioned ruling authority of middle-age India, we can examine how Babur as a foreign attacker came to India and established an empire successfully, how he was able to end the Afghan rule in India very quickly. Various reasons are there for the success of Babur to bring about the Mughal Empire. There is no dispute in the matter that after the collapse of sultanate rule, the political, social and financial circumstances experienced by North India mainly has given Babur a chance to attack and succeed. In the absence of strong central government machinery, sheltered in small pieces, the regional rulers of the country could not effectively resist an attacker. Since the national security and defense matters etc. were included in the responsibility of the rulers, common people have not paid any attention. The reason that no one among the rulers who gained independence newly have not observed seriously also became a reason for his success. They believed that just like other foreign attackers, Babur also after attacking and looting will return. They never thought a little Babur will inhabit in India. May be because of this Doulat Khan of Punjab and Rana Sangha of Rajputhana invited Babur to attack Delhi against Lodi. Lessons of experience on the battle field and the unabashed morale were Babur’s investment. Though small a disciplined army and very strong and efficient leadership and modern battle factice were the reasons for Babur’s success. He has not used elephants like Rajputs in the war but used horses and cannon army. Babur in his memoir has said about the Indian army like this. Indian soldiers knew how to die, but they do not know how to fight.” From this the excellence of

Babur's army is very clear. During Babur's attack since the Delhi sultan Ibrahim Lodi was worthless, the people hated him. Rajput chiefs were now organized enough to resist and defeat an attacker like Babur. Babur's soldiers were having gratitude towards the throne. But the soldiers of Lodi who earned bad fame may not have obligation towards kingship. Because of that the valour for war was reduced. As said above owing to the result of plenty of reasons Babur was able to confirm his domination on Delhi. Like this once upon a time wandered around as a king without kingdom, turned in to a history famous founder of Mughal Empire. Babur who achieved unusual victories died in the year 1530.

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